

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating claims 16 and 19-21 are allowed and that claims 27 and 28 are merely objected to.

Applicants amend claims 15, 17 and 18 by including therein claim 27, and cancel claims 27 and 28.

This should avoid all rejections and should place this application in condition for allowance.

A telephone interview was conducted concerning this application.

Applicant proposed amending claims 15, 17 and 18 to include "in a direction of the thickness" language to avoid Wakamatsu.

The Examiner's position was that the final seal of the present invention would include the seal of Wakamatsu, there was an enablement question regarding claim 15 being as broad as it was, and that claims such as claim 15 (only claim 15 was discussed in detail) were not really amenable to "in a direction of the thickness" language, i.e., the claims would have to be redrafted.

In any case, Applicants here adopt the Examiner's suggestion to limit to claim 27 with respect to the rejected claims.

Allowance is requested.

If any issues remain to bar allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned so that these may be resolved with any additional action.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/981,254

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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